



Indiana State Department of Health



January 17, 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEALTH OFFICIALS AND TOBACCO CONTROL ADVOCATES ASK HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT CIGARETTE TAX INCREASE

WHAT: The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) will be joined by the Indiana State Medical Association (ISMA) and the Executive Board of the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation (ITPC) to ask the Indiana House of Representatives to support Governor Daniels' proposed 25 cent cigarette tax increase. They will also share projected impact from the proposal.

WHO: Judith A. Monroe, MD, State Health Commissioner
Kevin R. Burke, MD, President, Indiana State Medical Association
Voice Youth Advisory Board Members
Joy Edwards, Coordinator, Howard County ITPC- affiliated coalition
Beth Kohli, 20-year smoker who quit after 2002 tax increase
Karla Sneegas, Executive Director, ITPC

WHEN: Wednesday, January 18, 2006
11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Indiana State Capitol
Room 101

BACKGROUND: Indiana's last cigarette tax increase occurred in 2002, when it was raised from 15.5 cents to 55.5 cents. Prior to 2002, the cigarette tax had not changed in 14 years. Despite the 2002 increase, Indiana's cigarette tax remains the lowest in the Midwest, while Indiana ranks number 7 in the country for smoking.

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